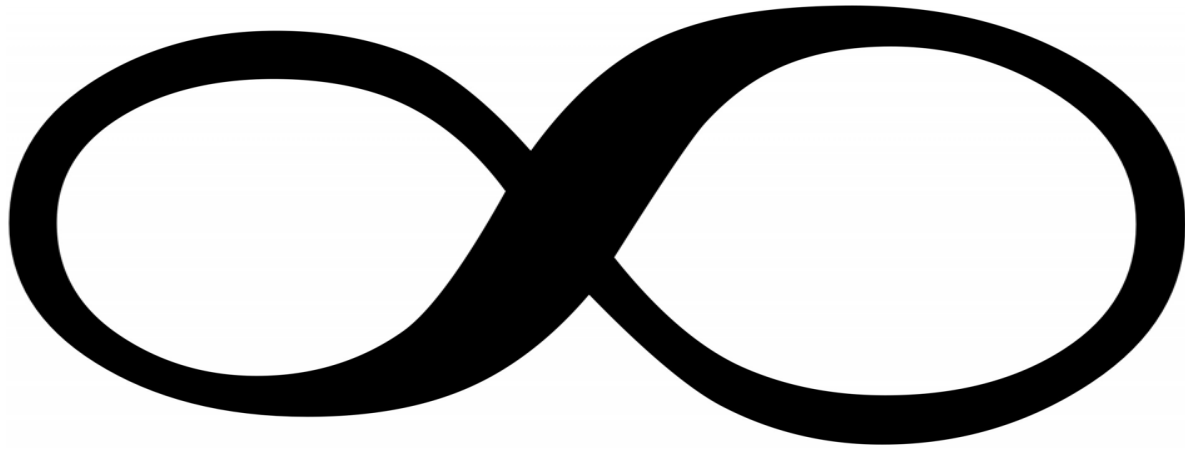



The Significance of The Number 8

And of course
the classic joke
*why was 6
afraid of 7?*
Because 7 8 9!

In celebration of my 88th newsletter this month, I will be taking a slight tangent from pianos to talk about the number 8. This numeral 8 is from the Arabic numeral system. The prefix is octo-/oct- though odd enough, October is the 10th month. It fits better with octagon or octahedron which means 8-sided shape. We also find animals such as the octopus, a sea dwelling animal with eight limbs, or the spider, an arachnid that builds and maintains its silk webs using its eight legs. And of course the classic joke *why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7 8 9!*

In a musical and piano related view, 8 is an important number. Common time is 4/4, adding up to eight; or 6/8 time, which gives the eighth note greater significance. The average piano has 88 keys, 52 white and 36 black, though it only contains 7 octaves to play with, the eighth octave starting with C8, the last key on the far right of the keyboard. Which brings us to the OCTave: the 8th note in a diatonic scale. 1C, 2D, 3E, 4F, 5G, 6A, 7B, and 8C. The A above the A above middle C, or A5, theoretically vibrates at a frequency of 880Hz, half of which is A440Hz, the standard reference pitch of which to tune music. This tuning allows one to play a song like *Eight Days A Week* by the Beatles. 88 Fingers Louie may or may not approve.



Jokes aside, 888 has spiritual and esoteric meanings as well. The Buddhists follow a Noble Eightfold Path which is eight practices that lead to enlightenment and liberation. The Octagram, or 8-sided star, is sacred in Islam. Chinese and other Asian cultures see 8 as a lucky number that brings wealth. Numerology says 8 means victory and prosperity, but also building and creating. In Astrology, the eighth sign is Scorpio  (the scorpion), the sign of great transformation. The Ethiopian Christian Bible contains 88 books, whether this has spiritual meaning or not, I thought it was interesting to include. What does the number 8 mean to you?

Infinite possibilities for song, infinite possibilities for connection, infinite possibilities for healing, infinite possibilities for creation, infinite possibilities for you to express whatever you need to.

One final note: what if we take the number 8 and turn it on its side? ∞ It becomes the symbol for infinity. What a curious thing. Within the 88 keys of the keyboard we find infinity. Infinite possibilities for song, infinite possibilities for connection, infinite possibilities for healing, infinite possibilities for creation, infinite possibilities for you to express whatever you need to.

The number 8 is mighty powerful for lucky creation and self awareness. It brings wealth and change in an infinite number of ways. It lets you know you did the work and it's time to move on to the next job where you will likely find more prosperity.

Thank you for reading my newsletters! Here's to the next 88!